



SHORE TIES VOL. 8
USCGC HARRIET LANE (WMEC 903) NEWSLETTER
May – July 2007, Caribbean Patrol



From the Cabin:

Hello from the cabin. This will be my last Shores Ties correspondence to the families and friends of HARRIET LANE after a very challenging yet rewarding twenty-nine month tour. LTJG Brinkley has done an outstanding job in his Patrol Notes at the end of this newsletter highlighting the operational escapades of 903. As a multi-mission platform, we have participated in almost all aspects of our missions. With the emergency MEDEVAC (medical evacuation) of a fisherman during a search and rescue case to the safe interdiction of 29 Dominican migrants, it has provided the crew exposure and experience with carrying out several missions that HARRIET LANE has not been involved in lately. We were able to further enhance our operational readiness during this patrol, as we deployed with a helicopter and conducted 125 flight evolutions and nine law enforcement boardings. During the past two patrols, my goal has been to transition personnel away from filling critical operational positions and effectively train and develop our new personnel who will be here after this summer. This concept of maintaining continuity of command is a critical component to ensuring high standards are maintained, personnel are properly trained and, most importantly, that operational excellence in the performance of all our missions is seamless through the transfer season as we work hard to carry on the tradition of Shooting for the DESIRED EFFECT.

I have had a great experience during this tour to have served with superb, high performing Cuttermen. You are all invited to my change of command. If you do have the opportunity to attend, you will hear me talk about the importance of developing a resilient and cohesive crew. Every tall and proud cutter starts from a solid foundation laid at the keel and built upon daily with hard work, extreme dedication and a commitment to operational excellence in carrying out our missions. I have had the unique opportunity to be a part of this cohesive group and am quite proud of their daily accomplishments as we add another chapter to the proud heritage of HARRIET LANE.

Lastly, especially to the wives of the married crewmembers with small children, I greatly appreciate the daily sacrifices you all make to keep your families on an even keel when your husbands deploy and are gone for two months at a time. Trying to juggle the school requirements, sporting activities, medical issues, and maintaining the calm support and stability while we deploy is an absolutely amazing feat that you all do. Some of the emails I get from home are unbelievable if you can just imagine my lovely wife at home dealing with 3 children under the age of 8. I have no idea how she does it. There is never a dull moment in the Scraba household. The HARRIET LANE crew thanks you all for keeping the homefront together during our absences. Melissa and I greatly appreciate the efforts that many of the HARRIET LANE families have put forth to make this tour such a successful and rewarding experience for us both. GODSPEED.

Best Regards,
CAPT Chris Scraba
Commanding Officer, USCGC HARRIET LANE (WMEC 903)

Letter from the Command Chief:

Greetings from the HARRIET LANE Chief's Mess,

This patrol marks the beginning of a significant change in the Chiefs Mess assigned to HARRIET LANE. OSC Agliano departed for his new duty station in California back in April and his relief, OSC Gaylord is scheduled to report in early July. MKC Rowland has transferred down to Florida and MKC Whitley has assumed the duties of the Main Propulsion Chief. Next to swap-out is FSC Lee; his next assignment is in Florida as well. His replacement is FSC Rice who should be joining our crew in Key West. OSC Clark's next assignment is in Georgia and his relief is OSC Smith. Finally, ETC Richie and I will transfer to our next assignments in the Hampton Roads, Virginia area after our return to home port in July. ETC Petty and BMC Kritz are our replacements.

On 14 June, the CPO Mess sponsored a ½ day of holiday routine in celebration of our cutter's commissioning anniversary back in 1984. FSC Lee headed-up an afternoon of BBQ Ribs and chicken up on the flight deck. The CPO Mess and our embarked pilots and flight crew are also sponsoring a Helicopter Ride lottery. Each crewman can submit their name for the drawing that takes place every day after lunch. The daily winners are taken away in our HH-65 Dolphin helicopter for an afternoon or evening flight high above the Caribbean Sea.

As this patrol winds-down, we're all looking forward to meeting our next Commanding Officer in Key West and celebrating the service of our Captain Chris Scraba back in Portsmouth at his Change of Command ceremony. The Chief's Mess hopes you all will join us for this on 17 July.

BMC Dan Certa
Command Enlisted Advisor

*MKC William Whitley
FSC Archie Lee*

*BMC Daniel Certa
MKC Frank Linkous
EMC George Rutledge*

*OSC Matt Clark
ETC Wesley Richie*

HARRIET LANE in Action:



British Navy Helo lowering mission critical parts onto the HARRIET LANE's Fantail



SK1 Etters being advanced to SKC



BM3 Gilliland giving training to Cadet Robards and BM3 Beck on the .50 cal machine gun prior to a gun shoot



6540 returning to the ship after a sortie in search of the ever relentless go-fast smuggler



Crew of the HARRIET LANE enjoy a steel beach BBQ put on by the Chiefs Mess



FN Washington doing maintenance on the equipment in the engine room



**Helo In-flight Refueling (HIFR)
of Dolphin HH-6540**



MK2 Heape being advanced to MK1



BM3 Gilliland driving the RHIB



Outbound Transit to Puerto Rico



**OTH assisting Dominican Migrants onboard
HARRIET LANE, after being spotted in a 25ft
yola.**



50 Cal gunshoot



CWO Cruz and SK2 Harrell opening the movie locker for the crew after the workday



SNFS Dietzman being advanced to FS3



Boarding Team ensures migrants are in good health and receive adequate care



YN1 Pearis working at his desk in the Ship's Office



SN Jones painting in the Bos'n Hole



ENS Lott, Weapons Officer, inspecting the M240 machine gun before the gun shoot.



BM2 Rivera receiving his end of tour award



BM2 Pressman driving the OTH during flight operations



OTH and Boarding Team chase down F/V La India suspected of carrying illegal contraband



ET2 Isbell awaiting the drop of mission critical parts from a British Helo



FS2 Murray enjoying some liberty on the golf course in Aruba



The Usual Suspects... Judging the most unique beards during the beard growing contest.



Passing CGC EAGLE in the Caribbean on their way to Colombia



A few members of the crew enjoying playing dominos at an exclusive island during their time off in Aruba

Patrol Notes

Underway, Caribbean Patrol

Greetings from the Caribbean! The crew of HARRIET LANE has been underway for six weeks with two weeks remaining in our patrol. HARRIET LANE left Portsmouth, VA on a warm May morning to head south in search of the ever relentless Go-Fast drug smuggler. So far the crew of the HARRIET LANE has enjoyed a successful patrol with an interdiction of Dominican migrants, multiple search and rescue (SAR) cases, and many personal qualifications. If the last 2 weeks of the patrol are as eventful as the first six, then there will still be plenty of excitement.

After leaving Portsmouth, HARRIET LANE was transiting to Mayport, Florida when we received a radio call from a fisherman off the coast of South Carolina requesting assistance. The injured man described how he was fishing and became entangled in his fishing lines causing a severe cut on his arm. The crew responded immediately sending over the ship's corpsman and other EMT personnel to care for the individual. He was brought back to HARRIET LANE then flown to a hospital by an HH-65 Dolphin helicopter.

Once in Mayport, HARRIET LANE refueled and loaded stores for the 58 days in the Caribbean Basin. Additionally, HARRIET LANE had to recertify both the boarding teams and the flight deck of the ship for Airborne Use of Force (AUF) Operations with the MH-68 HITRON Helicopter. During the Use of Force work-ups, members of HITRON Jacksonville race around in a speed boat to simulate a drug-laden Go-Fast. The armed helicopter, our cutter, and our small boat coordinate reporting, stopping and seizing the Go-Fast. The exercise is an excellent opportunity to rehearse our procedures before facing a real smuggling scenario.

After leaving Mayport, FL the ship traveled to Key West, FL to embark a HH-65 Helicopter Support Kit, and an HH-65 Dolphin Helicopter, tail number 6540, for the patrol. Having this helo onboard is a great asset because it gives us the opportunity to search a large area, covering a large area that might not have otherwise been possible.

Once in the Caribbean Basin HARRIET LANE interdicted F/V LA INDIA, believed to be carrying contraband. The vessel fit the profile of a drug smuggler but was broken

down and had been without food or water for four days. When our boarding team arrived, the vessel was taking on water and sunk after the crew was removed. We transported them to our next port call in San Juan and turned them over to Customs and Border Patrol.

The time in San Juan, Puerto Rico gave the crew the ability to call family and friends, and enjoy the same amenities from home such as: the beach, mall, and movie theaters. In addition, many of the crew members enjoyed authentic Puerto Rican food and winning money in the many neighboring casinos.

On the afternoon of 04 June, after departing Puerto Rico, HARRIET LANE's sharp lookouts spotted a small vessel in the Mona Pass that was carrying 29 Dominican migrants headed east. HARRIET LANE embarked these migrants and sank their 25 foot yola as a hazard to navigation. While onboard, the migrants received adequate shelter, food, and medical care. The next day HARRIET LANE rendezvoused with CGC CUSHING, a 110' patrol boat homeported in San Juan, Puerto Rico, to transfer the 29 migrants who would later be repatriated back to the Dominican Republic.

We pulled into Aruba 18 days after we left San Juan, and the crew was ready for some much needed relaxation on the beautiful white sandy beaches. The Morale Committee held a ship's party on an exclusive island, which included an open bar, free food, snorkeling, volleyball, and of course, lounge chairs on the water's edge. Additionally, many crewmembers tried their hands at an elite golf course.

During our time underway, the cutter has also been busy training each crewmember and maintaining the readiness of all equipment. In addition to frequently practicing for possible fire, flooding or other casualties, we've also had a 50 caliber machine gun and 76MM gun shoot. Practicing and running drills has allowed the cutter to truly be SEMPER PARATUS, always ready.

We are now working our way through the final weeks of the patrol, continuing our active search for suspicious vessels that might be carrying illegal contraband. We will soon pull into Guantanamo Bay, Cuba for a day then pull into our final port call, Key West, Florida. Afterwards, we will steam north and arrive in Hampton Roads on the afternoon of 10 July. Upon our return to homeport, the crew will be busy preparing for HARRIET LANE's Change of Command that is scheduled for 17 July.

LTJG Matthew Brinkley
Public Affairs Officer

Advancements

SK1 Etters advanced to SKC
FS1 Brown advanced to FSC
SNFS Dietzman to FS3

FA Hester advanced to FN
MK2 Heape to MK1

Qualifications:

Helm/Lookout

3/C Shields
3/C Isaacson
SN Jacobs
SN Jones
SN Abbey
SN Kellogg
SN Cusworth
SN Sterry
SN Carpenter

Tie Down

GM2 Jacques
GM3 Osborne

BMOW

SN Ishrat
BM3 Call

Landing Signals Officer

ENS Sites
ENS Lott
YN3 Savain

Boarding Officer

ENS Sites

Boarding Team Member

SN Ishrat
MK3 Levitsky
GM2 Jacques
HS1 Richardson
OS3 Martin

Inport Generator

MK2 Goff
MK3 Levitsky
EM3 Sikole

Throttleman

EM1 DosSantos

Underway EOW

MKC Whitley
MK1 Heape
EMC Rutledge

CIC Watch Stander

GM3 Osborne

CIC Watch Supervisor

ET2 Jarvis

QMOW

GM2 Jacques
1/C Robards
1/C Lieberman
3/C Isaacson

Auxiliary Watchstander

FN Hester
MK3 Levitsky
MK3 Brazzel
MK1 Roach

Underway OOD

ENS Walker

Fuel, Oil, Water King

MK3 Butterfield

Inport Security Watchstander

SN Jones
EM3 Sikole
SN Carpenter
SN Cusworth

EM1 DosSantos

DCPQS

SN Kellogg

SN Carpenter

MK3 Levitsky

EM3 Sikole (Advanced)

FS3 Dietzman (Advanced)

Air Direction Controller

OS2 Falten

MK3 Levitsky

SN Abbey

SN Kellogg

SN Sterry

FN Chancey

GM2 Jacques

MK2 Goff

MK3 Brazzel

FN Orser